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# **Preston's Berry Ranch**

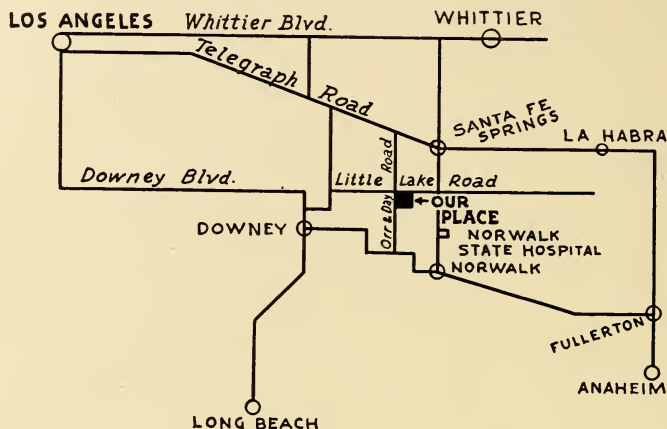
## **Berries and Berry Plants**



*Telephone* Downey 4 2 5 6 9  
1400 LITTLE LAKE ROAD  
NORWALK CALIFORNIA

# Call and let's Get Acquainted

We are located in Los Angeles County on Little Lake Road (at corner of Little Lake and Day and Orr Roads),  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile north and one mile west of Norwalk State Hospital, or one mile west of Santa Fe Springs, or  $3\frac{1}{2}$  miles east of Downey.



To reach our place come to Santa Fe Springs and then drive west one mile on Little Lake Road, which is first road south of Telegraph Road.

Telegraph Road is the main boulevard from Los Angeles through Santa Fe Springs.

## Please Observe When Placing Your Order

Use the enclosed order blank when possible.

REMIT postoffice money order, registered letter, express order or check.

WRITE your name and address plainly; do not fail to advise us when you wish the plants shipped.

WE PAY THE POSTAGE OR EXPRESS CHARGES ANYWHERE IN CALIFORNIA. If ordering from other states enclose postage or express.

**WE GUARANTEE PLANTS TO  
ARRIVE IN GOOD CONDITION**

Although we have no control over plants after they leave our hands, still we want you to be pleased with your plants and to succeed with them, so we guarantee them to reach you in good condition.

**All Plants** are inspected by local horticultural inspectors before leaving our place, and guaranteed to pass inspection on arrival.

**All Orders** which you wish us to hold for future delivery should be accompanied by at least one-fourth cash.

## GUARANTEE

We exercise the greatest care to have our plants true to label, and hold ourselves in readiness, on proper proof, to replace any plants that may prove untrue to label, free of charge, or to refund the amount paid, but it is mutually understood and agreed to between the purchaser and ourselves that our guarantee shall in no case make us liable for any sum greater than that originally received for said plants that may prove untrue.

PRESTON'S BERRY RANCH.

## Visit Our Field and Nursery

We will be very glad to meet you and show you our different varieties and our methods of handling them. Our knowledge of the business should make it worth your while. As we have been many years in the commercial berry business our experience should be of great help to you in selecting varieties best adapted to your exact soil and climatic conditions. Oftentimes, in starting a berry planting, success or failure depends on starting with the right varieties.

During the many years that we have been engaged in berry growing we have been constantly selecting varieties and strains of varieties that are very prolific. The varieties offered in this catalog have proved profitable for us, and for other growers who have gotten plants from us, and no doubt will prove money-makers for you.

Our plants this season are absolutely the best that we know how to grow. They are from thrifty, clean, young fields and have been thoroughly inspected, and can be shipped anywhere.

We grade carefully and pack our plants carefully in damp moss (with no extra charge for packing), and we guarantee them to arrive in good condition anywhere in the United States.

## Prices and Values

You would hardly expect one starting in the dairy business to make a success if he went all over the country gathering up the cheapest cows he could find. Nor would you expect a man, starting in the poultry business, to be as successful if he hatched eggs from just anywhere, as if he secured his eggs from a careful breeder who had been selecting and culling his flock for years. The same principle holds true in selecting berry plants for a new planting. We do not mean to make it appear that our prices are necessarily higher than others, but we wish to make it plain that in producing our plants **QUALITY** and **VALUE** is our first consideration and not the price.

**START WITH GOOD PLANTS.** We have built up a reputation in the berry business and in order to maintain that reputation we can not ship you anything but the very best.

**PRESTON'S BERRY RANCH**  
**NORWALK, CALIFORNIA**



# The Youngberry

(The Improved Loganberry or Youngdewberry)



**A Basket of Youngberries— $\frac{3}{4}$  Actual Size**

This finest of all berries cannot be listed under any of the other classes of berries because it is an entirely new distinct berry. Although it is a true cross between the Loganberry and the Austin dewberry, it is very superior to either of its parents. To us, who have been watching berries closely for many years and who know berries, it is almost unbelievable that a cross between these two varieties could produce a berry superior to its parents in as many different ways. It would not happen once in ten thousand crosses. It takes after the dewberry in productiveness, hardiness and freedom from disease. The canes grow and look rather more like the Loganberry than the dewberry. The leaves look like a combination of the two varieties. The fruit is larger, sweeter, darker red, more shiny, and has a much more pleasing flavor than Loganberries, and when a berry beats Logans in all these points it sure has to be good.

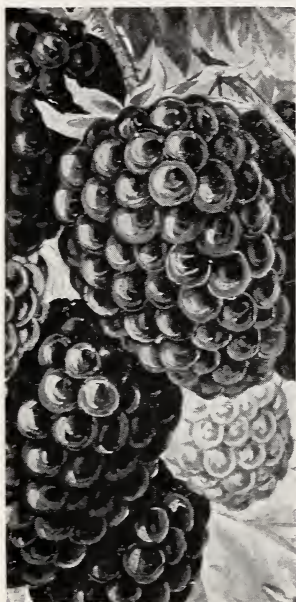
The fruiting season is just a few days later than Gardena dewberries and a very few days earlier than Loganberries. They ripen very fast; in Southern California, practically the entire crop is har-

vested during the month of June. On account of their heavy yield, fast ripening and immense size, they are the cheapest and fastest berry to pick we have ever grown. We had several pickers this past season who could pick twenty trays (three hundred baskets) in a nine-hour day.

This is our fourth year with the Youngberry, so we have fruited them three seasons, commercially. Our two-year-old vines produced fifteen thousand baskets per acre, about twenty baskets per plant.

From a new planting on our place, put out in February, 1926, consisting of 350 plants (one-half acre) we picked last season 402 trays, or 6030 baskets, which sold for \$760.00. These berries were put in eight-ounce baskets, and our average price was \$1.90 per tray; \$3.80 per crate, or a little more than 12½ cents per basket. This was at the rate of \$1520.00 per acre sixteen months from the time the plants were set, and in all the years we have been growing berries we have never had a first-year planting of any variety equal this record, either in baskets per acre, nor in money returns per acre.

This season (1928), with a much larger acreage in bearing, prices were not quite so high, but the demand was so good that we had to buy several hundred trays from other growers to supply our retail trade. This was in addition to something over twelve thousand baskets that we grew ourselves.



Youngberry—Actual Size

We believe that within three years the Youngberry will be the most popular and most largely planted bush berry in California. It will be popular with the grower on account of its health, vigor, heavy production, and large size of the fruit. The consumer will demand it because it is larger, prettier, and finer flavored than other berries now being grown. For pies, jellies, jams and juice it surpasses any berry we have ever seen. This is not just our own opinion, but that of hundreds of customers who bought the berries from our stands who have come back to tell us about them. In a complete description of the Youngberry, Mr. George M. Darrow, of the Department of Agriculture at Washington, sums up its superior qualities as follows: "The disease resistance of the foliage, its apparent resistance to anthracnose, and the superb quality of its fruit for dessert, culinary purposes, and as a source of fresh fruit beverage make it especially promising as a commercial and a home garden fruit. No weak points have yet appeared in the variety."

We feel so sure that this berry is going to be a money-maker in the seasons to come that we are increasing our plantings each season.

The Youngberry derives its name from having been crossed by Mr. Young in Alabama a few years ago. The Department of Agriculture was quick to note its superior qualities and has tested it at several experiment stations and recommends it for planting where Logan-

berries and dewberries are successfully grown.

**Mr. Berry Grower**, you should plant some of this fine berry, because it pays to grow the best, because the public is going to be calling for it, and because you will get both profit and pleasure in handling this better berry.

**Mr. Home Gardener**, ten plants of this variety will make a row eighty feet long, which will produce an astonishing amount of the finest berries you ever saw. They will be a delight to you and your friends.

They are very strong growers and should be trellised. A very simple trellis, consisting of two wires (the lower one 2½ feet from the ground and the upper wire about 4 feet) is all that is required. Plant eight feet apart in rows seven feet across. About 800 plants per acre.

**Prices**—Each, 20c; 10, \$1.75; 25, \$3.00; 50, \$5.00; 100, \$10.00; 1000, \$80.00.



Loganberry—¾ Actual Size

## The Loganberry

This fine berry, very popular and extensively planted in Oregon and Washington for juice production, is of California origin, being introduced by Judge J. H. Logan of Santa Cruz more than 20 years ago. The fruit is large, long, an attractive red color, and although it is a little sour it is highly prized by a very great many people for jams and jellies and for mixing with raspberries and other berries in jams and preserves. The vines are trailing and have to be grown on trellis. The berries are large and easily picked. Plant 8 feet apart in rows 7 feet across; 800 plants per acre.

**Prices**—Each, 15c; 10, \$1.25; 100, \$7.00; 1000, \$60.00.





Advance Blackberries ( $\frac{1}{2}$  Actual Size)

## Blackberries

**The Advance** is the first blackberry on the market, being four weeks earlier than the Gardena dewberry, which before the introduction of the Advance was the earliest blackberry. We start picking here in April, and in some warmer and more sheltered sections they are even earlier than that.

Naturally these very early berries bring fancy prices.

The Advance is the firmest of all the blackberries. We ship them each year, without refrigeration, to points as far as Albuquerque, New Mexico. It is generally conceded to be the best shipping blackberry.

The crop ripens slowly, lasting over a period of from six to nine weeks. Although not thornless, its thorns are much smaller than other blackberries, being more like raspberries in this respect. The bushes are large and evergreen. There is a slight reddish cast to the leaves, which make it very pretty. It is sometimes planted as a hedge for its beauty as well as for the fine berries produced. The fruit is borne nearly altogether on the outside of the bushes.

Summing up the good points of the Advance variety, it is the earliest and the best shipping blackberry in California; it bears well over a long season; its habits of growth cut picking costs to a marked degree, and last, it sells for very much higher prices than later blackberries. Should be planted only in sections free from late frosts.

The first year after planting the vines trail on the ground much like the dew-

berry, but the next and succeeding years they grow upright like common blackberries. They respond to the same careful watering, cultivation and fertilization as must be practiced with all sorts of berries. They need no pruning the first year.

On account of the Advance blossoming so early in the season, when the weather is likely to be unfavorable for bees to work, we have found that less than five plants will not pollinate satisfactorily, so we do not sell less than five plants of this variety.

There are two strains of Advance blackberries and by having these two strains thoroughly mixed much better pollination takes place, resulting in much larger crops. In small plantings consisting of a single row, best results are obtained by alternating these strains, setting first one then the other down the row, and the plants will be tied separately in the shipment, so that they may be planted that way. In larger plantings we have found that two plants of one strain to one of the other is more desirable, and that it is much better to plant two plants of one strain and one of the other in the same rows than to plant them in separate rows. The plants will be tied separately and marked so that you may plant this way. In the larger commercial fields it is a good plan to keep a few stands of bees in or near the field. Plant five feet apart in rows eight feet across, 1000 plants per acre.

**Prices—Each.** 15c; 10. \$1.25; 25, \$2.50; 50, \$4.00; 100, \$7.00; 1000, \$60.00.



**Macatawa Blackberry.** (Sometimes called Macatawa Everbearing.) We consider this variety an improved, selected strain of the old Crandall blackberry. It is bush type requiring no support after the first season. The fruit is uniformly large, very sweet, and firm, with few seeds and practically no core. It bears an exceedingly heavy crop through June and July and usually another light crop of very large berries in the fall. It is from this characteristic that it derives the name Everbearing.



One Branch of Macatawa Blackberries

This variety will produce satisfactory crops under a wider range of soils and under more adverse conditions than any other blackberry we have ever seen. In all the years that we have been growing them we have never had a crop failure nor even a short crop. Year after year we pick from fifteen to twenty thousand baskets per acre and the quality is uniformly good.

It is the best mid-season blackberry for the home gardener because it never fails to bear abundant crops, which last over quite a long season; and because the fruit is fine for eating fresh as well as for canning. Ten plants will plant a row forty feet long that will yield crates of berries.

It is the best mid-season blackberry for the commercial grower because of its hardiness, its immense yields, and because the public likes the berry and buys it freely.

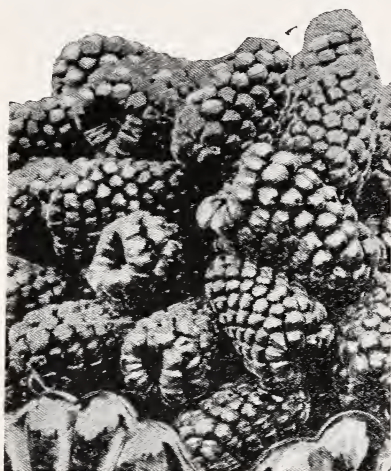
Macatawa is our finest mid-season blackberry and we are increasing our acreage again this spring. This variety gets ripe just when Advance blackberries are nearly gone and should be planted to prolong the season.

Plant 5 feet apart in rows 8 feet across, requiring 1000 plants per acre.

**Prices**—Each, 15c; 10, \$1.25; 100, \$7.00; 1000, \$60.00.

**Himalaya Blackberry**—A very rank and vigorous grower of the trailing type which has to be trellised. It has the longest fruiting season of any of the blackberries; the season lasting from about July 15th to November or even later some seasons. Berries are round,

medium size, and grow in very large clusters. The canes do not die back every year like other blackberries, but continue to grow like a grapevine. Only the fruit spurs die back each year. This berry is very susceptible to the red berry trouble and will have to be thoroughly sprayed for good results. Plant ten feet apart in rows seven or eight feet across. About six hundred plants per acre.



Corey Thornless Blackberries

**Corey Thornless**—This variety of blackberry is a vigorous grower of the trailing type, and has to be trellised. The fruit is the largest of any of the blackberries, has small and few seeds, but is rather soft, so not a good shipper, though good for local trade. It ripens about the first of June and the season lasts about five weeks. Plant eight feet apart in rows seven feet across, requiring about 800 plants per acre. This berry must be sprayed.

**Mammoth Blackberries**—Quite a popular berry for home use, especially in the hotter, drier sections. Similar to Corey Thornless in every respect except that it is thorny and in some localities more prolific. The fruit is very large and the seed is very small.

**Prices for all varieties of Blackberries**—Each, 15c; 10, \$1.25; 25, \$2.50; 50, \$4.00; 100, \$7.00; 1000, \$60.00.

#### Blackberries from April Until November

In order to have blackberries over the longest season plant Advance, which are ripe in April and May; Macatawa, which are ripe in June and July; Himalaya, ripe in August, September and October. If your locality is subject to frost late in the spring substitute one of the dewberries in place of Advance blackberries.

We make no exaggerated claims as to the profits you will make with berries. This catalog is written with the idea of helping you select suitable varieties and to help you succeed with them. We believe there is enough information herein to warrant your SAVING IT for future reference.

## Some Raspberries for the Southwest

Nearly all varieties of the raspberry do well in the irrigated sections of the Southwest where soil and climate are adapted to their needs. Under careful management they produce large crops and return handsome profits to the grower.



**The Cumberland Black Raspberry**

We are growing varieties of both red and black raspberries. Until very recently the general opinion has been that the black raspberry could not be grown successfully in the Southwest. For this reason, there has been but comparatively few plantings made of the blackcaps. The truth of the matter is that they are well adapted to the soil and climatic conditions in many districts of Southern California, and as these berries are scarce in local markets growers are receiving high prices for them.

Our crop of blackcaps sell for higher prices per box than any other berry. Last season our whole output sold for \$6.00 per crate, and most of them were ordered a week before they were ready to pick. We are convinced that they will prove money makers for those who grow them, especially to those growers who live comparatively close to the coast. One grower in the Garden Grove district told us that he sold \$970.00 worth of blackcaps from one and a quarter acres grown between four-year-old orange trees. We bought several hundred dollars' worth of his berries to fill our own orders.

### PLANT BLACKCAPS

**Cumberland**—We consider this variety to be the best blackcap for the Southwest. It produces abundantly over quite a long season and the quality of the berries is excellent, being very firm and of good flavor. It is also a good keeper. Growers who got Cumberland plants from us two years ago are enthusiastic over the crop and prices they got the past season. Some of them reported that their blackcaps all sold for more than \$5.00 per crate; and, as one grower remarked, they sold for whatever he had the nerve to ask.

Our Cumberland plants this season are unusually fine, having been grown on a new, thrifty, young field. They are very clean, heavily rooted plants and should produce a fine growth during the coming season and a heavy crop the following summer.

Plant  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in rows 7 feet apart; 1750 plants per acre.

**Prices**—Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.00; 50 for \$3.50; 100 for \$6.00; 1000 for \$40.00.

### RED RASPBERRIES

**Ranaree or St. Regis**—This fine ever-bearing raspberry is known in the north as Ranaree and in the southern part of the state as St. Regis. It is undoubtedly the best shipping red raspberry grown in the West, many carloads being shipped each year from the Palo Alto district to as far east as Chicago. Thousands of trays of this berry are shipped to the Los Angeles market each year from the north. We do not grow enough raspberries in Southern California to supply the demand.

Plant St. Regis in February and with good care and plenty of water you can start picking in August and pick all summer and fall the same summer they are planted and still get a crop the following season. The fact that it bears all summer and fall makes it particularly desirable for the home gardener. Twenty-five plants sets a 50-foot row and is really about the minimum amount that an ordinary family should plant; since any variety that produces over a very long season cannot bear such a very large quantity of berries at any one time. Plant 2 feet apart in rows 6 feet across; 3000 plants per acre.

**Cuthbert.** (The fruit of this variety is called Cassberry on the L. A. market.) For the main, mid-season crop, this variety is grown by the commercial growers in Southern California in preference to all other varieties. With proper care it bears an abundant crop. The fruit is very large, firm, and of fine flavor and the fruit is borne in very large clusters. It is strictly a one crop variety which bears heavily through its season (June and July) and stops. It is a strong, upright grower. We set out a patch of Cuthberts last February and by September they were seven feet high. The fruit keeps fine, stands handling and hauling wonderfully, looks good, and





California Surprise, 8 Months from Planting

sells well. Altogether it is our best mid-season raspberry both for the commercial grower and for home use. Plant 2 feet apart in rows 6 feet across; 3000 plants per acre.



Cuthbert Raspberries

**California Surprise.** The earliest and finest flavored red raspberry grown in California. While they are not as good shippers as the Cuthbert or St. Regis, the flavor is better and they are ripe six weeks earlier (late April or the first of May). Thousands of crates of California Surprise are marketed each season at good prices before other varieties are ripe. Plant same distances as other raspberries.

**Latham.** A new variety that is receiving a great deal of advertising and boosting in the east. This is only our second year with this berry. While it has some very good qualities we are not prepared, as yet, to say that it is any better than the other varieties we already have here. Distances of planting and prices same as other varieties.

This variety is priced much higher by the eastern nurseries and growers.

**Prices—All varieties of Raspberries—**Each, 15c; 10 for \$1.00; 25 for \$2.00; 50 for \$3.00; 100 for \$6.00; 1000 for \$40.00.

## A FEW WORDS ON GROWING RASPBERRIES

Raspberries are among our finest fruits and with proper care produce abundantly, but they will not stand neglect as blackberries and dewberries do. They are shallow rooted and require much more water than other berries and it is not enough to run a little furrow down by the side of the row, but the whole ground between the rows should be flooded with water. Then after they are growing well they should be well fertilized. Nothing is better for this than plenty of manure of any kind, scattered in the whole space between the rows and soaked in by a heavy irrigation. In shipping raspberry plants it is customary to leave the canes a foot or

more long. When the plants are set out it is very much the best practice to cut these canes off to within a very few inches of the ground. This will make them send up much stronger canes. Then if they start blossoming in May or June, prune off the canes that are blossoming to force stronger growth. Later in the summer the St. Regis will blossom again and may be allowed to bear throughout the summer and fall. When they send up suckers between the rows, hoe them out while small along with the weeds and do not allow but very few suckers to grow in the rows either. Follow these instructions and you should get a big crop of very fine raspberries the following year after setting your plants.





Carolina Strawberries

## Strawberries for Profit

Owing to our mild climate and long fruiting season, strawberry plants, if re-produced year after year, in California, rapidly lose their vitality. Until late years we have shipped our strawberry plants from the east or north and planted them here. We kept all blossoms picked off and allowed them to make plants the first season, and these plants, only one season removed from a cold climate, were the plants that we sold. This careful practice has produced many successful patches. The past two seasons we have gone one step further we shipped all our Banner and New Oregon plants from the north and all our Klondyke, Carolina and Progressive plants from Arkansas. The thrift and vigor of the fields grown from these plants and the enthusiastic letters we are getting from the growers proves the wisdom of this step.

This season we are having our New Oregon and Banner plants grown for us on contract by one of the most careful growers and under the most favorable

conditions we could locate in Oregon. We are having our Klondyke and Carolina plants grown for us in Arkansas again this season. While this practice practically eliminates our profit in the strawberry plant business, we have the satisfaction of knowing that we are giving our customers the very best plants obtainable anywhere. You will notice that we are delivering these thrifty, vigorous, cold climate plants as cheaply as good local plants can be sold for.

There are two kinds of strawberry plants: The first is plants grown for plants alone from a new planting, the blossoms and berries having all been kept off. It costs money to grow this kind of plants, but the results you get will warrant the cost. The other kind of plants are surplus plants taken from a fruiting field and many growers will give you these for nothing if you dig them and they will prove very expensive plants at that price. Whether you buy plants from us or not be sure and only set plants that were grown for plants alone.

### CONCERNING PLANTING STRAWBERRIES

There are several methods of setting out strawberry plants, each the best under certain conditions. The method most often used by the larger commercial growers is to set the plants three feet apart each way, in February or March, and keep the blossoms picked off, allowing the plants to make runners the first summer to fill out the rows. This method requires only 5000 plants per acre, but you get no fruit the first summer.

In smaller plantings, especially if the grower wishes berries the first season, the plants are set one foot apart in either single or double rows and the runners are kept picked off. If this method is used the plants may be set out any time from October until April. The earlier planting producing the larger crops the first year. This method requires from seventeen to thirty thou-

sand plants per acre, the exact number depending on how far apart the rows are spaced.

In most cases if the land is very sandy and not very retentive of moisture, or if there is considerable grade to the rows, the plants should be set out on the flat, or level with the ground without any ridges. If the land is very flat so that the water does not run freely in very small rows, or if it is heavy or very retentive of moisture, then the plants should be set on small ridges. If ridges are used they are usually made wide enough on top to accommodate two rows about a foot apart, one near each edge of the ridge.

Do not manure strawberry land before setting the plants. You can fertilize after the plants are growing well, in the irrigation furrow between the rows if you wish.

Do not plant strawberries on alkali land. They are very susceptible to alkali and will do no good on land that is alkaline, although it may grow some other crops successfully. And only plant strawberries where there is an abundant supply of water which may be had often.

**Prices**—Our prices quoted include the mail or express charges to any point in California. In ordering strawberry plants in thousand lots or more, deduct two dollars per thousand from the prices quoted and we will ship them directly to you from the grower, you to pay the express, which we believe will in no case amount to more than \$2.00 per thousand. This will cost you no more and will save much delay; your plants reaching you much fresher.



New Oregon Strawberries

**Klondyke**—This strawberry is planted more extensively in Southern California than any other sort for local and shipping market, as it is the earliest and most profitable sort. Plants will produce two crops a year in the Southwest, the first in the early spring and the second during the summer. It is a vigorous grower and a good plant producer. We recommend it above all other strawberries for commercial planting and for shippers. Our new land, eastern-grown plants, produce thrifty, large hills with tall tops, that produce heavy yields of well-colored berries.

**Prices**—For 25, 50c; 100, \$1.50; 300, \$3.50; 500, \$5.00; 1000, \$7.00.

**Banner**—The Banner and the New Oregon are very, very similar varieties, in fact, they are so nearly alike that many people cannot tell them apart. We believe that for Southern California conditions the New Oregon is slightly the best, being a little more vigorous grower, and the fruit being slightly larger and perhaps of a little finer texture. They are both very fine varieties and when you have described one you have

practically described the other. Prices same as for New Oregon.

**New Oregon (Oregon Plum)**—From the standpoint of quality this is the finest berry grown in California today. The bushes are the largest; and most vigorous, and the fruit is the finest flavored of any strawberry we have yet found. We especially recommend them to the grower with a local trade that appreciates the finest quality and to the grower who markets his berries from a stand at the field. Customers will drive miles out of their way to get these big, sweet, highly flavored berries after having once tried them. While we do not class them as everbearers they do bear over a very long season and they start bearing long before the everbearers are ripe and are much larger and finer quality. We have picked them here continuously from March to the last of September. If set out in the fall or even early spring they bear a considerable crop the first season. Many growers who have gotten plants from us are very enthusiastic about this variety. They do especially well on the rather heavier soils. For home planting we consider this the one best berry. For distant shipment it is not as good as the Klondyke.

**Prices**—Twenty-five, 75c; 100, \$2.00; 300, \$4.00; 500, \$6.00; 1000, \$10.00.

**Carolina.** This variety has been grown in California only a comparatively few years, but is becoming quite popular, especially on our lighter, sandier soils, and in Southern California probably ranks next after Klondyke as a commercial berry. It is a heavy bearer and a good shipper. The fruit is not quite as bright and attractive looking as Klondyke, but the quality is just as good. This berry is known in the east as Missionary and on the Los Angeles market as Mission berries. It is the same berry under different names. It thrives in a matted row if given plenty of water and fertilizer.

**Prices same as Klondyke.**

**Champion Everbearing.** This berry is very similar to the Progressive everbearing except that the fruit is just a little larger. It is one of the most prolific of the everbearing strawberries, producing fruit six or seven months of the year. The berries are not nearly so large as Klondyke or Carolina, but are sweet. Very good for the home garden or for the commercial grower who wishes to prolong his season after the other sorts are through.

**Prices**—25, 75c; 100, \$2.50; 300, \$5.00; 500, \$7.00; 1000 for \$12.00.

**Mastodon Everbearing.** A new large everbearing strawberry that is being tremendously advertised in the east. If it should prove one-half as large and productive here as eastern nurseries are claiming it to be there, it would be a world beater. Our own observations and the reports that we have from western experiment stations make it impossible for us to make any great claims for this variety until it has been more thoroughly tried under western conditions. Our Mastodon plants are being grown in the east and our grower there says that it is large and very good, but not nearly all that is being claimed for it by some.

**Prices**—One doz., 50c; 25, \$1.00; 50, \$2.00; 100, \$3.00; 500, \$11.00; 1000, \$20.



## The Best Dewberries



Picking Berries in one of our Gardena Dewberry Fields.

**Gardena**—This is the earliest and one of the most prolific of all dewberries, ripening four weeks later than the Advance blackberry, but two weeks earlier than the common varieties of blackberries. We consider the Gardena to be one of the best dewberries for planting in Southern and Central California, where it is unusually prolific and a "sure-cropper." From one acre of Gardenas, the first year after planting, we picked 7200 pint baskets and the second season we picked 15,000 baskets. This is not an unusual yield on good land with proper care.



Lucretia Dewberries

This variety can be grown successfully anywhere in the Southwest where climatic conditions for berry growing are favorable. Its bearing season lasts from four to five weeks, commencing from May 15 to May 25, according to

the weather. It is a strong grower and should be trellised to produce the heaviest crops. Ten plants will make a row 35 feet long and will produce a surprising quantity of berries.

Plant  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in rows 6 feet across, 2000 plants per acre.

**Lucretia**—This variety is a very firm, handsome berry of good quality, which we recommend planting to prolong the early blackberry season, for it is about ten days later than the Gardena. Its heaviest bearing season comes at a time when the Advance is going out, and as it is a good shipper, it can be used to supply markets which have been taking the Advance. It is just as prolific as the Gardena, and better flavor and appearance and larger and firmer than either the Gardena dewberry or the ordinary blackberry. All of these qualities make the Lucretia a profitable berry and one that should be planted by all berry growers.

Plant  $3\frac{1}{2}$  feet apart in rows 6 feet across; 2000 plants per acre.

**Prices for both varieties of Dewberries**—Each. 15c; 10, \$1.00; 25 for \$2.00; 50 for \$3.50; 100 for \$6.00; 1000 for \$40.00.

For those with a very limited space, a few plants of each of the above varieties of dewberries will yield more fruit for the small space occupied than any other berries you could plant. They also require less work in as much as the whole bush is chopped off to the ground at the end of each fruiting season, and grows new for the next season, thus eliminating hand pruning.



## The One Best Rhubarb



**Cherry Rhubarb—8 Months from Planting—More Than 3 Feet High**

**Cherry Giant**—After trying the common varieties of rhubarb and finding them unprofitable, five years ago we paid \$80.00 per hundred for our start of Cherry. It proved profitable from the start. Since that time we have been increasing our planting as fast as possible, until this season we have a limited number of plants to offer our customers. This fine rhubarb grows throughout the entire year and except for a short time in the warmest part of the summer the stems are a beautiful cherry red their entire length. It is a little less acid and better flavored than other sorts and even if it were not better, its beautiful red color would sell it. The stems are very large, but so tender that they do not require peeling, when cooked. It is a very heavy yielder; two plants, if well cared for, is ample to supply an ordinary family with all the rhubarb they can use every week in the year. We often pick fifteen pounds of the most beautiful red rhubarb from a single plant at one time and in a few weeks it is ready to pick again. Plants set out in the spring are ready to start picking by September. Commercial growers are finding that the market is demanding this red rhubarb more and more each

year. It is getting so that the common sorts will hardly sell at any price. It cannot be grown from seed, but has to be propagated by subdividing the plants, which makes it more costly than some of the common varieties. It is sure worth the difference, though, because after once getting a start you can always increase your planting by subdividing, thus always having an increasing number of this superior rhubarb. When a man devotes high-priced land and expensive labor to growing a crop it certainly pays to only grow the very best and something that the market wants. For the market gardener or the man with an acre or two of land who is trying to produce something to sell all the year around we certainly recommend Cherry Giant. One hundred plants will set four rows one hundred feet long and will produce an astonishing amount of the finest red stems and will produce them straight through the winter in the warmer sections. For best results rhubarb requires plenty of moisture and either very rich land or liberal fertilization. Plant four feet apart in rows six or seven feet across.

**Prices**—Each 50c; 10, \$4.00; 50, \$15.00; 100, \$30.00; 1000, \$250.00.

## ASPARAGUS PLANTS

Following our set policy of centering our energies on only a few of the very best kinds we are offering only two varieties of asparagus.

Brief instructions for growing asparagus on page 15.

**Martha and Giant Washington**—These varieties are very superior to the old varieties, being more rust resistant, more prolific and of finer quality.

**Prices**—Less than 100 at 2c each; 100 or more at \$1.50; 1000 at \$10.00.

## Fruit Trees, Grape Vines, Roses and Shrubs

We are berry specialists, and are glad to ship berry plants anywhere. We do not ship trees and grapevines, as we feel that you can buy these more satisfactorily from your local nurseryman. The expense of packing trees and grapevines for shipment is so great that very likely your local nurseryman can sell

them to you just as cheaply, and possibly cheaper, than we can pack them and ship them to you.

If you live within reach of our nursery, we will be glad to supply you with fruit trees, walnuts, grapevines, roses or other plants. Both the quality of our stock and our prices will appeal to you.

## Berry Baskets and Trays

We buy our berry baskets and trays by the carloads, ordering them in the fall so that the mills can make them up during the dull winter season, and in this way we are able to make you very attractive prices. We use and stock only the very best grade wooden, tin top baskets. After having tried out paper baskets and all wood baskets we know that this tin top basket is more satisfactory and economical; that the trade is used to it and likes it better, and that the berries carry better in it.

We market all our berries, both locally and for distant shipments, in fifteen basket trays, having discarded the 30-basket crate many years ago. The first cost of the trays is much less than for crates. They are much cheaper to handle in the field and at the shed, saving much valuable time. The berries carry better in them because they are made to just fit the baskets, leaving no space for berries to fall through. The berries can be displayed better in trays because all the baskets are in sight, while in the 30-basket crate only ten baskets can be seen. It also often happens that a customer does not want to buy a whole crate, but will take a tray, which is just half of a crate.

You will find that handling your berries in trays will be cheaper, that it saves time and that your package will be more attractive.

The trays are made with cleats on each end of the bottom so that they nest together and will stack up and cannot come apart without being lifted up. In hauling to market one cover is used on top of each stack. In shipping by express the trays are cleated together in stacks of three or four with one cover on top.

In ordering baskets be sure to mention whether you want eight-ounce or twelve ounce baskets and whether you wish them shipped by freight or express. Strawberries are all put up in twelve-ounce baskets, and nearly all the bush berries are put in the eight-ounce size. There are still a few growers who put blackberries in the larger basket during the part of the season when the prices are cheapest. We are using eight-ounce baskets for all varieties of bush berries and find that the berries carry better, keep better and sell for a little more money when packed this way.

**Prices**—The prices quoted for trays and baskets are f.o.b. here. State whether you wish them shipped by express or freight. Tin top baskets, either eight or twelve-ounce size, per hundred, **75 cents**; per crate of one thousand, **\$6.00**. Five-pound fruit baskets, per hundred, **\$2.00**.

Trays, when made up and taken from our shed, are, each, **12 cents**; per hundred, **\$10.00**; knocked down they are, each, **10 cents**; per hundred, **\$8.00**; per thousand, **\$75.00**. Covers are **6 cents** each. If ordered shipped, add **one cent** per tray for packing and hauling.

In ordering trays, state whether you are going to use eight or twelve-ounce baskets in them, as the trays are deeper for the deeper baskets.

For your convenience in figuring shipping costs: Trays weigh about two pounds each. Eight-ounce baskets weigh about thirty-five pounds, and twelve-ounce baskets weigh about fifty pounds per thousand.

The above prices are based on the present price of lumber (October, 1928). Should lumber prices vary, either up or down, in the spring, our prices will vary accordingly.

## Gloves for Picking Berries

We have found that goat skin gloves **cents** per pair. These gloves come in are the only all leather gloves which are both men's and women's sizes. Please tough, light, pliable and cheap enough state the number of pairs of each wanted to be practicable for berry picking. If when ordering. Give the pickers these gloves with the fingers cut about half off and they will get many more berries from inside the vines than without gloves, and they will not hang like canvas gloves.

you cannot get these from your local dealers, we can supply them at **60 cents** per pair, or for **\$6.25** per box of one dozen pairs of assorted sizes, postpaid. The price of these at our shed is **50**



## Brief Cultural Directions

(Taken from Experience)



Klondyke Strawberries Planted in Single Rows

**Irrigation**—No set rules can be laid down which will hold good in all cases because of the difference in climate and soil in the various sections. We have given the distances for planting with each variety. We irrigate about once each week during the picking season and about once in three or four weeks during the balance of the year, except in the rainy season. Some soils will require water more often than this, especially for strawberries, while others may need it less often. Give them a thorough irrigation when you do irrigate. The one main consideration is to keep your plants growing thriftily through the entire summer. We have to get a large vine growth in order to be able to get a heavy crop, so if it takes more water to get a vigorous vine growth, use it. Water well at the end of the picking season and again immediately after pruning, which should be done just as soon as the crop is picked. This gives the vines a good thrifty start at a time in the summer when they will grow very fast.

**PRUNING**—Macatawa, Crandall, Advance and other bush type blackberries require no pruning the first summer. They grow pretty much on the ground the first season, but stand in bushes after the first year. The following spring after the plants are set, new, stiff, upright canes come up through the plants, and these should be headed back to the height it is desired to have the bushes, just before commencing to pick. This gets them out of the picker's way and makes the framework for next year's bush. Then when the crop is all picked all the old wood that has borne berries should be cut out at once.

**Dewberries (and Advance blackberries if trellised)** should be left on the ground the first season until July or August, when they are put up on low trellis. No pruning is required until the berries start ripening, when all the new wood is cut off to facilitate picking. As soon

as the crop is off, the whole vine is cut off level with the ground with a hoe; no other pruning being needed.

**Youngberries, Loganberries and Mammoth Blackberries** require a high trellis (four to five feet). They are grown on the ground the first season until they are long enough to go up on the trellis. No pruning is usually necessary until the crop is picked, when all the old wood that has borne berries is cut from the trellis and off at the top of the ground. The new wood which has grown during the spring is trained parallel with the rows under the trellis and is put up on the wires when the old wood is cut off. In some sections the new canes of the Logan and the Mammoth are left on the ground until February and put on the trellis then to prevent sunburning.

**Raspberries.** Red raspberries should be cut back to within three or four inches of the ground when set out. Then in the spring when the new canes reach a height of about twelve inches, pinch or cut them back to about eight inches. This will make them branch and send up more and better canes. On some varieties (California Surprise for one), this is very important; and they should be cut early, while still short, not over fifteen inches. As these canes grow out they should be held upright by a wire on each side of the row fastened to short cross arms on stakes.

Then about February the canes should be headed back; on an average about one-third being cut off; some prune off much more. After the crop is picked, cut out all the wood that has produced berries clear to the ground.

In the spring, before starting to pick, the new canes can be cut back to within one foot from the ground. This will get them out of the way of the picking and make them branch for the following crop. Keep the sprouts that come up in and between the rows hoed out while small.



**Black Raspberries** need no pruning the first summer, but should be held up with a low wire trellis. Ordinarily two wires one foot apart and two feet high is about right. The canes may grow 8 or 10 feet long the first summer and should be headed back, while dormant, on an average about one-third their length. When the crop is picked the old wood is all cut out to the ground and the new handled as before, or if you prefer bushes, the new canes can be headed back a little when they reach three feet high. This will make the canes stand up in bushes the second season. These canes will send out lateral branches which should be headed back the following winter to about twelve inches from the upright canes.

**With Himalaya Blackberries** only four canes should be allowed to grow from the start. They should be trained on high trellis, of two wires, with one cane each way on each wire. The canes are headed back when they reach the next bush (about ten feet). No laterals should be allowed to grow between the ground and where the cane reaches the wire. These main canes are left year after year, like eastern grapevines, and all laterals are cut back in the winter to two or three buds.

**Corey Thornless.** We believe the best way to handle Corey Thornless blackberries is as follows: The first year leave the canes on the ground, but keep them pushed over in line with the rows, so that they can be irrigated and cultivated. Then in February put the canes up on a high trellis, saving only four or six of the best canes and cut these selected canes off at about eight feet long. If they have branches cut them back to about one foot long. Immediately after the crop is picked cut the whole vine off just above the ground and leave the new canes that grow right down on the ground until the following winter, when they should be thinned out and headed back as mentioned above and put up on the trellis.

There are as many different methods of pruning as there are different growers. The plans suggested here of handling the different varieties are only suggestive, but have proved satisfactory under most conditions. Each grower works out details that suits his own taste and convenience.

**Time to Plant**—Strawberries may be planted any time from October until April. All varieties of bush berries should be planted after the first of January and before the last of April. Occasionally we have seen fair results obtained, if the conditions were all favorable, when planted even later, but we do not recommend it. During the usual season and under average conditions, February is the one best month for planting all kinds of berries.

**Fertilization**—On nearly all soils it pays to fertilize berries. For bush berries, if manure is scattered on the ground between the rows and irrigated and cultivated in, during the fall and winter, and the ground is not allowed to dry out, it is hardly possible to use too much. From five tons of poultry manure to twenty tons of barnyard manure per acre will usually give excellent results and will pay. In small plantings, from five to ten pounds per plant of poultry manure and twice that amount of other manures, scattered between the rows and hoed and watered in, usually increases the size and quality of the crop wonderfully. If manure is not available, from  $\frac{1}{2}$  to 1 pound of nitrate of soda or sulphate of ammonia per plant scattered between the rows and soaked in at about blossoming time will help. Or if fish meal, blood meal or tankage is available from one to two pounds per plant worked in the ground in February will certainly help make them do their stuff. The time of applying these different fertilizers is important because some materials become available much quicker than others.

On commercial plantings, when manure is not available, from one-half to one-ton of fish meal, blood meal, tank-



**Champion Strawberries**

age, or a good mixed fertilizer, the exact amount depending on the soil, will usually prove a very good investment. These materials are usually applied about the time growth starts in the spring. For strawberries from three-fourths to one ton per acre of fish meal scattered down the irrigation furrows and cultivated in in February and an equal application again when the first crop begins to thin out, usually around the first of June, gives wonderful results on many soils. On small plantings this would be at the rate of ten to fifteen pounds per hundred feet of row.

**Trellising**—It pays to use only redwood posts, as pine rots out too quickly. We use heavy end posts and stretch the wire from one end of the row to the other from the end posts and then staple it up to the inside posts. The end posts should either be braced or the wire should be tied close to the ground on them and then raised up to the desired height on the inside posts. If the wire is stretched tight and the end posts are solid the inside posts may be spaced 25 feet apart and need not be larger than two by two redwood. Some use one wire above the other, while others use crossarms. Each system has its advantages. We make the top wire from three and one-half to four and one-half feet high for blackberries, Loganberries and Youngberries, the exact height depending on how heavy the vines are at the time we put them up. For raspberries we use very short crossarms that space the wires about one foot apart and let the canes grow up between these wires. For St. Regis usually one pair of wires about two and one-half feet high is enough. On good land Cuthberts will require another pair twelve or fifteen inches higher.

**SPRAYING**—(For the Commercial Grower)—In the past berries have required very little spraying in California. During the past few years a microscopic mite known as the blister mite is becoming bad in many sections of this state. This mite enters the blossoms of all the later sorts of blackberries and cause sections of the berry to remain red after the balance of the berry is ripe. In all sections where this condition has appeared all varieties of blackberries, except the Advance and possibly the dewberries, should be sprayed. The Advance and the dewberries blossom very early and, so far as we know, have never been attacked by the blister mite. For this trouble spray in the spring, just when the leaf buds are starting to open with lime-sulphur, one to ten. That is, one gallon of commercial liquid lime-sulphur to ten gallons of water, or if you use the dry lime-sulphur, use fourteen pounds to one hundred gallons of water. Now the above is dormant strength and will burn if used after the plants are leafed out, but should be used just when the leaf buds are starting to open and none of the leaves are more than one-half inch long. A thorough job of spraying at this time will get almost perfect control. In bad cases, or, to get absolute control, a second spraying should be given when the berries are about half through blossoming. This second spraying consists of five pounds

of soluble, or wettable sulphur to one hundred gallons of water. For Himalaya blackberries which blossom over a very long period, two or three sprayings during the blossoming time are advisable.

To control the white scale (rose scale), which gets on the canes near the ground and sometimes becomes quite bad, spray during the dormant season with one of the refined lubricating oil sprays, such as Volk, or a number of others on the market. Use at the rate of two gallons to one hundred gallons of water and keep it well mixed.

**Sprays for the Home Garden**—For red-berry which prevents blackberries from ripening uniformly. If only a small planting is to be sprayed get one quart of liquid lime-sulphur from your feed store and mix it with two and one-half gallons of water or get half pound of dry powdered lime-sulphur and mix it with three gallons of water. This can be applied with any kind of a small sprayer. The important part is to completely wet the vines or bushes all over and to apply it at just the right time, which is just when the leaf buds (not blossom buds) are commencing to open. If you have been very seriously bothered the past season by your berries not ripening, give them a second spraying, consisting of one-quarter pound of soluble sulphur to five gallons of water when in full blossom.

For white scale (rose scale) near the base of the canes, use one-half pint of Volk, or any other good refined oil spray, to three gallons of water. Apply this in the winter while the vines are dormant.

If strawberries should be attacked by aphids (small green plant lice), dust well with Nicro Dust. If strawberries are attacked by red spider (an exceedingly small red or yellow mite on the under side of leaves), sometimes one or two spoons full of sulphur scattered close around the plants on a hot day will create fumes enough to kill the spiders.

If any other conditions should arise which require spraying, we would suggest that you write for the bulletins listed in the back of this catalog and also take the matter up with your local horticultural commissioner. If at any time we can be of any help we will be glad to do so.

#### Brief Instructions for Growing Asparagus

Plant in a deep furrow one foot apart, making the rows six feet apart. When the plants have been set in this deep furrow cover only about two inches deep and then as they grow work more dirt to them until the furrow is finally filled up. This is to get the crowns down deep so that they will not be injured by cutting. No asparagus should be cut the first season. In the fall when the tops turn yellow cut them off to the ground and manure heavily. The next spring the bed may be cut for a while, but must be allowed to fern (grow tall tops) each summer and fall in order that the plants may recuperate and be ready for cutting the following spring.



## Helps for Berry Growers



RED RASPBERRIES - LEFT LOGANBERRIES - CENTER BLACK RASPBERRIES - RIGHT  
JUST EIGHT MONTHS AFTER PLANTING

During the course of a season we receive a very great many letters asking information concerning berry growing, and while we are always glad to answer these questions as best we can, sometimes it would take many pages to answer completely. It is impossible, in as small a book as our little catalog, to give very complete directions for planting, irrigating, pruning, and caring for

all the different varieties of berries. The University of California at Berkeley, and also the Department of Agriculture at Washington, issue a number of circulars and bulletins on growing the different varieties of berries which will be mailed to you absolutely free if you will ask for them. These give a great deal of detailed information which is illustrated with pictures, making them very interesting reading for berry growers.

You can send to University of California, College of Agriculture, Berkeley, Calif., for Circular No. 164 on Small Fruit Culture in California.

Circular No. 154 on Irrigation Practice in Growing Small Fruits in California. Circular No. 265 on Plant Disease and Pest Control.

Bulletin No. 399 on the Blackberry Mite—the cause of redberry disease.

By writing the Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C., you can get the following bulletins:

Farmers' Bulletin No. 643, Blackberry Culture.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 728, Dewberry Culture.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 887, Raspberry Culture.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 998, Culture of the Loganberry.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1458, Strawberry Diseases.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1027, Strawberry Culture.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1043, Strawberry Varieties.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1398, Currants and Gooseberries. This last one will explain why we do not grow currants and gooseberries commercially in Southern California.

Farmers' Bulletin No. 1488, Diseases of Raspberries and Blackberries.

In addition to these bulletins the University of California gives two correspondence courses, one on Strawberry Growing and one on Bushberry Growing. These come in seven lessons each and are really good. Each course only costs \$2.00, and is open to everyone. If interested address Division of Agricultural Education, University of California, Berkeley, California.





# 1929 Catalog

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## P r e s t o n ' s Berry Ranch

Berries and Berry Plants  
*Telephone* Downey 42569

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